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Senate Committee on Transportation
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 49009

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 49009

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

The Michigan Driver and Traffic Safety Association (MDTSEA) represents over 300 driver education instructors and road test examiners in the state of Michigan.

Our association has concerns with the implementation of fully autonomous vehicles, the major concern being the lack of manual over-ride controls. When federal and/or state standards are adopted (through rules and/or statute), we request those standards include manual over-ride controls for acceleration, braking, steering, interior climate control, and audio.

Surely, we have current systems that override the driver if s/he makes an error (i.e. electronic stability control, back-up assist, etc.). But, what happens if an automated vehicle makes an error or there is a glitch (or a hack) in the central control systems that guide these vehicles? We believe there should be a way for the driver to take control of the vehicle in this type of situation. To take control of the vehicle, the vehicle must have a steering wheel, brake pedal, or accelerator pedal. Over-ride controls for interior climate control and audio are also important in case of a system failure.

Finally, we would also appreciate being added to your mailing list to receive information on bills related to this topic.

Sincerely,

Norene Lind
Michigan Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association
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